AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient, as an active ingredient, an antibody which specifically binds to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:17 [[FGF-8]] to inhibit activity of FGF-8.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8 is a monoclonal antibody.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the monoclonal antibody is an antibody selected from an antibody produced by a hybridoma, a humanized antibody and an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the humanized antibody is a human chimeric antibody or a human complementarity determining region (CDR)-grafted antibody.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the human chimeric antibody comprises an antibody heavy chain variable region (VH) and an antibody light chain variable region (VL) of a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8, and an antibody heavy chain constant region (CH) and an antibody light chain constant region (CL) of a human antibody.

Claims 7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the human CDR-grafted antibody comprises CDRs of VH and VL of a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to

FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8 and CH and CL of a human antibody.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the human CDR-grafted antibody comprises CDRs of VH and VL of a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8, framework regions (FRs) of VH and VL of a human antibody and CH and CL of a human antibody.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient, as an active ingredient, an antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8,

wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody selected from an antibody produced by a hybridoma, a humanized antibody and an antigen-binding fragment thereof,

wherein the humanized antibody is a human chimeric antibody or a human complementarity determining region (CDR)-grafted antibody comprising CDRs of VH and VL of a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8 and CH and CL of a human antibody,

~~The method according to claim 9, wherein the human CDR-grafted antibody is a human CDR-grafted antibody in which~~ wherein CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 of VH comprise amino acid sequences represented by SEQ ID NOS: 7, 8 and 9 respectively

and CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 of VL comprise amino acid sequences represented by SEQ ID NOS: 10, 11 and 12 respectively.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient, as an active ingredient, an antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8,

wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody selected from an antibody produced by a hybridoma, a humanized antibody and an antigen-binding fragment thereof,

wherein the humanized antibody is a human chimeric antibody or a human complementarity determining region (CDR)-grafted antibody comprising CDRs of VH and VL of a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8 and CH and CL of a human antibody,

~~The method according to claim 9, wherein the human CDR-grafted antibody is a human CDR-grafted antibody in which~~ wherein VH comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18 or 20 and VL comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 19, 21, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 50 or 51.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the human CDR-grafted antibody is any of the following human CDR-grafted antibodies (a) to (c),

(a) a human CDR-grafted antibody in which VH comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18 and VL comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 21,

(b) a human CDR-grafted antibody in which VH comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18 and VL comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 44, and

(c) a human CDR-grafted antibody in which VH comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18 and VL comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 50.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient, as an active ingredient, an antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8,

wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody selected from an antibody produced by a hybridoma, a humanized antibody and an antigen-binding fragment thereof,

wherein the humanized antibody is a human chimeric antibody or a human complementarity determining region (CDR)-grafted antibody comprising CDRs of VH and VL of a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to FGF-8 to inhibit activity of FGF-8 and CH and CL of a human antibody,

~~The method according to claim 9,~~ wherein the human CDR-grafted antibody is any of the following human CDR-grafted antibodies (a) to (c),

(a) a human CDR-grafted antibody produced by transformant KM8037 (FERM BP-8084),

(b) a human CDR-grafted antibody produced by transformant KM8035 (FERM BP-8082), and

(c) a human CDR-grafted antibody produced by transformant KM8036 (FERM BP-8083).

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the antigen-binding fragment thereof is an antigen-binding fragment selected from Fab, Fab', $F(ab')_2$, a single chain antibody (scFv), a dimerized variable region (V region) fragment (diabody), a disulfide-stabilized V region fragment (dsFv) and a CDR-containing peptide.

Claim 17-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting joint destruction inhibitor comprising administering to a patient, as an active ingredient, an antibody which specifically binds to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:17[[FGF-8]] to inhibit activity of FGF-8.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting cartilage comprising administering to a patient, as an active ingredient, an antibody which specifically binds to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:17[[FGF-8]] to inhibit activity of FGF-8.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting growth of synovial membrane comprising administering to a patient, as an active ingredient, an antibody which

specifically binds to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:17[[FGF-8]] to inhibit activity

of FGF-8.